



Working on the inside...  
Succeeding on the outside

## Montana Correctional Enterprises (MCE) Advisory Council Minutes

350 Conley Lake Rd. – Deer Lodge, MT 59722

March 26, 2008

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Senator Kim Gillan, Dr. David Yarlott, Peggy Grimes, Gerald Bender, Cheryl Moore-Gough, and Mike Monforton

**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS (DOC) MEMBERS PRESENT:** Gayle Lambert, MCE Administrator; Andrew Olcott, Fiscal Manager; and Gail Boese, MCE Administrative Officer

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** Representative Mike Jopek and Larry Mayo

**GUESTS:** Pam Bunke, Administrator of Adult Community Corrections; Patrick Smith, Contract Placement Bureau Chief; Ted Lewis, Hardin Two Rivers Detention Center; and Becky Convery, Hardin City Attorney

The Advisory Council meeting was held at the Montana Women's Prison in Billings, Montana. After roll-call, the MCE Advisory Council was called to order by Senator Kim Gillan.

A motion to accept the minutes of the November 27 and 28, 2007 meeting was seconded and approved.

Jo Acton, Warden of the Montana Women's Prison gave a brief overview and history of the prison before the committee toured the facility. The committee adjourned to tour the prison from approximately 8:30 am to 10:30 a.m.

### Comparison of work programs in other states

Gayle Lambert distributed a report from the National Correctional Industries Association (NCIA) directory that showed a comparison of work programs in other states. On the whole, Montana offers considerable programs when compared to other states. This information is also available on the NCIA website at [www.nationalcia.org](http://www.nationalcia.org)

## NCIA Conference – Albuquerque, New Mexico

Gayle informed the committee that she and her staff consisting of Larry Burke and Gail Boese, along with MSP Training Manager Lisa Hunter, attended the National Correctional Industries Association conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico on March 8-13, 2008. Montana Correctional Enterprises presented the Operations and Finance track which included the following workshops:

*Utilizing the Long-Term Inmate Worker to Stabilize the Work Force,  
Opportunities for Correctional Industries with New and Existing State Buildings  
and Grounds,  
The Multi-Generational Workforce Part I: One Work Place-Four Generations,  
The Multi-Generational Workforce, Part II: Generations at Work – The Big  
Picture; and  
Your Final Product – The Inmate Released into the Community.*

Gayle also reported that two MCE employees were presented with awards at the conference. Clara Morrison, Lumber Processing supervisor received Montana's "Shining Star" award in correctional enterprises. David Blaz, MCE Motor Vehicle Maintenance Teacher since 1984 received the NCIA Honor Roll award.

Also discussed was the report by the Pew Charitable Trust that stated Montana's prison population dropped almost 4 percent last year, the largest decline in the country. This is good news as it means that Montana's alternative community programs are beginning to work to help reduce prison population.

## Organic Gardening

Gayle stated that per direction of the governor, MCE will be submitting a proposal for an organic gardening pilot project through the Executive Planning Process (EPP). This proposal came about through a recommendation by the Governor's Food & Agriculture Summit.

Also discussed were the upcoming legislative requests from MCE.

## Work Dorm Expansion

The work dorm expansion was discussed with an expected opening date of December 1, 2008. This expansion will give the work dorm 104 extra beds.

## New Industries Program

Two new Prison Industry Enhancement Certification (PIECP) programs have been approved by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. Suttons Sportswear, embroidery program

and Thomas Tooling, a company that produces a specialized hand clamp, were approved in March 2008. Suttons Sportswear will be located at the Montana Women's Prison and Thomas Tooling will be located at the Montana State Prison facility. MCE is also awaiting approval on two other PIECP programs.

Also discussed were the wood pallet project at lumber processing and an anticipated biomass burner project.

Committee member Gerald Bender expressed the need for a cardboard recycling project. Gayle will discuss this with Carl Nelson, MSP Maintenance Manager.

Committee members expressed an interest in obtaining statistical information on the long-term inmate worker and a list of therapeutic programming and work programs at each facility. This information will be compiled and sent to all members.

Gayle also discussed the inmate I.D. project.

#### Andrew Olcott

Andrew discussed MCE's income statement for the quarter ending December 31, 2007.

Andrew also reported that he is looking into production and accounting software to be used for all of MCE programs.

#### Lunch and tour at Passages

The committee adjourned for lunch hosted by Passages. After lunch, Pam Bunke and Jan Beggar gave a tour of Passages, an alternative women's facility.

#### Pam Bunke Presentation

Pam Bunke, Administrator of Adult Community Corrections distributed the Department of Corrections – Adult Population report and discussed and answered questions from the committee members.

#### Patrick Smith – Contract Placement Bureau Chief

Patrick Smith, Bureau Chief for the Contract Placement Bureau introduced himself and gave a brief history and overview of his division. Pat reported that there are few work programs at the other facilities but stated that the communities are starting to open up to the possibility of inmate workers outside of the prison walls.

The committee was interested in finding out the percentage of inmates who are working and the number of inmates working in each program at the various facilities.

This information will be compiled and presented.

Public Comment

Senator Gillan requested public comments. Outside guests were Becky Convery, Hardin City Attorney and Ted Lewis, Hardin Two Rivers Detention Center. They introduced themselves and their reasons for attending the meeting.

Next meeting

Gail Boese will work with the committee to schedule our next meeting. The Committee was encouraged to send agenda items to Gail Boese for the next meeting. The following items were suggested for the next meeting:

1. Review spreadsheet of all programs and inmates jobs
2. Population projections – Gary Hamel
3. Review MCA's
4. Legislative audit recommendations
5. Committee members are asked to bring at least one recommendation or observation for MCE

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Gail M. Boese  
Gail Boese, Administrative Officer